

Debbie Beadle

From: Evan Maxim
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 9:02 AM
To: Kathy Curry; Kamuron Gurol; Susan Cezar
Cc: Melonie Anderson; Debbie Beadle
Subject: FW: Recusal Request

EXHIBIT NO. CC77

FYI

*Evan Maxim
Senior Planner
City of Sammamish
425.295.0523*

Effective March 1st, my email address is: emaxim@sammamish.us. Emails sent to my old email address are being forwarded temporarily, however please update your email address for me accordingly.

From: Tom Odell
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 9:46 PM
To: Ramiro Valderrama-Aramayo; fopl@juno.com; City Council; Kamuron Gurol; marianne@msn.com; Bruce Disend
Cc: Ben Yazici; Evan Maxim
Subject: RE: Recusal Request

Bruce -

Please give us your opinion on this issue.

Thank you,

Tom

Tom Odell
Mayor
City of Sammamish

From: Ramiro Valderrama-Aramayo
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 8:11 PM
To: fopl@juno.com; Tom Odell; City Council; Kamuron Gurol; marianne@msn.com
Cc: Ben Yazici; Evan Maxim
Subject: RE: Recusal Request

Dear Ms. Stahl and Council Members:

Throughout the ECA process I have done my best to understand the many different viewpoints held by our citizens in regards to the proposed changes by the Planning Commission. This has included attending public meetings including the Planning Commissions, Council Opens, and individual meetings with citizens. I have made sure I have met with each party that has asked or had an interest to meet with me. As I can recall my two coffees (and three calls and emails) with Ms Stahl and Ms. Tiliacos are more than I have had with any other individual in the city. I have tried always have an open mind and be informed of all views and always consider what is best for our city.

There are a number of inaccuracies in the statement below. While I was in Citizens for Sammamish (CFS), I am no longer a member. I attend the monthly meetings as do other Council members. In the past other members of the Council have also commented on the CFS meetings and discussions they have attended.

After I left CFS, the Environment Group Ms. Stahl refers to was created. I have not participated in their meetings nor do I know who are the members of this sub-group. I also do not know if Ms. Richardson is a member of this sub group or CFS as a whole. As CFS has various sub groups including Connectivity, Community Activities, Transportation, Finance, Budget, Accounts, etc., it would be unfair to say CFS benefits from the ECA changes.

I should point out it was the Planning Commission and city staff who generated the Items proposed to the Council after Public hearings. All Items are being looked at with Citywide application in mind and most people involved in the process have in no manner been involved in CFS.

Ms. Stahl is also incorrect on the isolated wetland issue. The Planning Commission and city staff presented to the Council Item 3-19 Isolated Wetland Exemption and Wetland Buffer Exemption - for CITYWIDE application. My proposed amendment would restrict this exemption for up to (3) pilots of isolated small wetlands. These pilots would require the applicant to pay for city monitoring, management and testing so the city could gauge the effects of the program before proceeding on a larger scale across the city. As we have heard that DOE has not tested small wetlands of under 10,000 square feet this information would be valuable not only for Sammamish but also the State of Washington.

Given the 2005 Council (which I was not on) added the Sunset Clause to seek out the Public benefit - the comment that the items presented by the Planning Commission are an attempt by a few citizens to benefit themselves - this too is a mischaracterization. Ms. Stahl's belief that there is "an orchestrated attempt by members of CFS to undue citywide protections" is unfounded. Furthermore, since joining the Council I have always attempted to demonstrate that the positions I take are based on fact gathering, analysis and finding for what I see is best for the city. This holds true for ECA as well.

Regards,

Ramiro Valderrama
Deputy Mayor, Sammamish

From: fopl@juno.com [fopl@juno.com]
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2013 4:49 PM
To: Tom Odell; City Council; Kamuron Gurol; marianne@msn.com
Cc: Ben Yazici; fopl@juno.com; Evan Maxim
Subject: Recusal Request

Honorable Mayor, Sammamish Council Members and Mr. Yazici;

This is a request that Council Member Ramiro Valderrama recuse himself from voting on changes to the ECA Review due to a lack of an appearance of fairness in the public process due to his closeness to and association with the group Citizens For Sammamish.

Mr. Valderrama started the group called Citizens For Sammamish, and continues to participate in, and advocate for, members of that group. He even reports to the council on meetings of the CFS. As a founding member, one can easily see that he has a personal interest in, connections to, and obligations to the group. Many members of this group are advocating for changes to the ECA that would benefit them personally. The CFS's core "environmental committee" is made up of the same individuals most interested in changing the regulations of the current ECA that would benefit them personally. This in itself appears unfair. CFS does not represent the majority of citizens of Sammamish.

Kathy Richardson, chair of the Planning Commission, is also a member of CFS and is an unabashed advocate for property rights. She presented and forwarded, during the public process, changes to the existing ECA that are not supported by BAS and benefited certain members of the CFS and others asking for their property rights

to take precedence over laws that now exist. This took the form of proposed pilot projects in the EHNSWB Overlay, reduction in wetland protections and other changes to the existing ECA code. Ms. Richardson was in a powerful position as chair of the commission to chose who benefited from the proposed pilot program and used her position to forward interests other than those of the larger public. This does not appear fair either.

Mr. Valderrama has himself proposed a pilot program allowing for alteration of up to 4,000 sf of an isolated wetland in Sammamish. During the ECA public process only one family asked for such a alteration. Even our city staff itself went outside of the normal public process to accommodate them, accompanying this family to a meeting with the DOE outside of public scrutiny. Since Mr. Valderrama's proposal benefits only this family, and does not benefit the public in any way, this also appears to be unfair.

The appearance of fairness is an important element of the public process. In this case, there are members of the CFS group positioned in public offices having enormous power over the process itself and the outcome of the ECA review. Since the changes being proposed for the Overlay are not based on Best Available Science, do not benefit the public but do benefit members of the CFS, an objective person could easily see an unfairness. Some might even say it looks as if this has been an orchestrated attempt by members of CFS to undue citywide protections in order to benefit targeted individuals. Therefore Council Member Valderrama, in the interest of having an appearance of fairness, must recuse himself from voting on ECA issues.

Ilene Stahl

Weird trick

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